consequential steps for setting up of the IDFC are being taken. Details of guidelines for investment etc. will be formulated by the IDFC after it has been set up and operationalised.

(d) No. Sir.

(e) and (f). Do not arise.

Revival of Scooter India Ltd.

4277. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :
SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Scooter India Ltd. a Public Sector unit has fallen sick;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal to revive sick unit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount likely to be spent on the rehabilitation of that unit?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Scooters India Limited was referred to BIFR in 1992. The main reasons for its sickness are :

(i) Lack of upgradation of technology in terms of design, process and manufacturing which could meet the changing needs of customers.

(ii) Very high interest bearing liabilities on account of the past operating losses.

(iii) Excess manpower incommensurate with production levels.

(iv) Consumer preference for other makes of Scooters.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Government has decided to revive Scooters India Limited in the present set up as per the revival scheme sanctioned by BIFR with necessary cash infusion amounting to Rs. 22.45 crores and other reliefs and concessions.

[Translation]

Import of Maize

4278. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been signed with USA for import of maize;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions set for it; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of maize growers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[English]

High Court Bench at Goa

4279. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request for the setting up of an independent High Court in the State of Goa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c). The Government of Goa have proposed that the State of Goa should have an independent High Court. The matter is under consideration.

[Translation]

Patent Issue

4280. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has since submitted the report on Patent Issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of suggestions received in this regard;

(d) whether some suggestions or memoranda from the Members of Parliament and other social organisations have been received in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e). The Government has not asked the Planning Commission to submit any report on the Patent Issue. It has, however, received suggestions/memoranda relating to amendment to the Patents Act, 1970 in the context of the TRIPs Agreement which is a part of the WTO Agreement.

Government is holding consultations in order to work out appropriate measures in this regard.

[English]

Interest on Bank Deposits

4281. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the revision of interest rates on bank deposits has adversely affected the national saving scheme;

(b) whether the Government are also aware of the difficulties being faced by the agents of National Saving Scheme in collecting deposits due to the new restriction of limiting the handling of receipt upto Rs. 5,000/- by them; and

(c) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to review the said regulations and restrictions?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The revision of interest rates on bank deposits has not affected the National Saving Scheme.

(b) and (c). No restriction of limiting the handling of receipt books by the agents of National Saving Scheme upto Rs. 5000/- has been imposed.

[Translation]

Co-operative Sugar Mills

4282. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 26 co-operative sugar mills of Maharashtra, which were provided licence during Seventh Five Year Plan have made financial tie-up;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether IFCI is not providing financial assistance to co-operative sugar mills of Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) has reported that out of the 27 applications received from new sugar co-operatives in the States of Maharashtra, the institutions had short-listed in phases, 25 cases for processing in Jan-April, 1994, subsequent to clearance of the defaults of the existing sugar co-operatives in the State of Maharashtra by the State Government. Out of the aforesaid 25 applications, financial assistance has been sanctioned by the institutions in 21 cases and the sanction/ processing in remaining 4 short listed cases has been kept in abeyance in view of mounting defaults in respect of the existing sugar co-opertives.

(c) and (d). IFCI has reported that it has been decided jointly by the financial institutions to consider any fresh applications for financial assistance in respect of sugar cooperatives from the State of Maharashtra only after the existing projects under implementation have commissioned (whereafter only a clear picture would emerge with regard to availability of sugarcane) and the issue relating to mounting overdues in respect [illegible] sorted out.

[English]

Benami Property

4283. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government keep a watch on the unaccounted wealth and properties accumulated by the Income-Tax, Customs and Excise officials beyond their known sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the number of cases of alleged corruption and income tax evasion registered and prosecutions launched against such officials during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Both the Income-tax Department and Central Excise and Customs Department have an independent Directorate of Vigilance to process cases of complaint against officials of the Department. CVC and CBI also keep a vigil on the unaccounted wealth and disproportionate assets of the officials of the Departments. Furthermore, CCS (Conduct) Rules for Central Government servants contain elaborate provisions on norms of integrity and good conduct which include inter alia submission of Immovable Property Returns, intimation of transactions over certain specified monetary limits and financial inspections of Government servants affairs.

(c) The number of cases registered for acquiring disproportionate assets during the last 3 years are

Income Tax Department	31
Customs and Central Excise Department	6

Further, follow-up action as per the CCS (Conduct) Rules and whenever required, under the Income-tax Act is taken.

Public Sector Undertakings

4284. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether employees in public sector undertakings transferred from any part of the country and posted in the public sector units in the N.E. region are given special incentives considering the "very special circumstances prevailing in the area";

(b) if so, the details thereof;